

REMARKS

Applicants are amending claims 1, 4, 6, and 7, and are canceling claims 2 and 5 without prejudice to the subject matter claimed thereby. Therefore, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7 currently are pending in the above-captioned patent application and are subject to examination. No new matter is added by the foregoing amendments, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. Reconsideration of the above-captioned patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action mailed December 17, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly being rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,480,013 to Fujiwara *et al.* ("Fujiwara") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,630,670 to Griffin.

In order for the Examiner to establish a prima facie case for obviousness, three (3) criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to those of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the primary reference as the Examiner proposes. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success in connection with the Examiner's proposed combination of the references. And third, the prior art references must disclose or suggest all of the claim limitations. MPEP 2143. The Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections, as follows.

Applicants have canceled original claims 2 and 5, without prejudice to the subject matter claimed thereby. Therefore, the obviousness rejection of claims 2 and 5 is rendered moot.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to describes a one-way clutch comprising “a first cage formed on an inner side at the annular space, wherein the first cage includes: a first plurality of retaining pockets for retaining the plurality of sprags; and at least one non-retaining pocket which does not retain any of the plurality of sprags, wherein a sum of a number of the first plurality of retaining pockets and a number of the at least one non-retaining pocket formed on the first cage is greater than a number of the plurality of sprags; [and] a second cage formed on an outer side at the annular space, wherein the second cage includes a second plurality of retaining pockets for retaining the sprags, and wherein a total number of pockets formed on the second cage is equal to the number of the plurality of sprags.” As such, in the one-way clutch described in independent claim 1, the first cage includes at least one more pocket (retaining pockets plus the at least one non-retaining pocket) than there are sprags, and **the second cage includes the same number of pockets as there are sprags.**

Fujiwara describes a one-way clutch in which the number of sprags is identical to each of the number of pockets formed on the inner cage and the number of pockets formed on the outer cage.

Griffin discloses an axial rolling bearing that includes a cage 1, and the cage 1 comprises a plurality of pockets 8 for receiving rolling elements 10. See, e.g., Griffin, Column 2, Lines 39-41. Griffin also discloses that some of the pockets 8 are empty, and thus, are devoid of any rolling elements 10. See, e.g., Id. at Lines 57-63. The purpose of the empty pockets 8 is to provide a passageway through which a lubricant may flow through the axial rolling bearing, and the number of empty pockets 8 may be adjusted based on the load-carrying capability of the bearing. See, e.g., Id. at Column

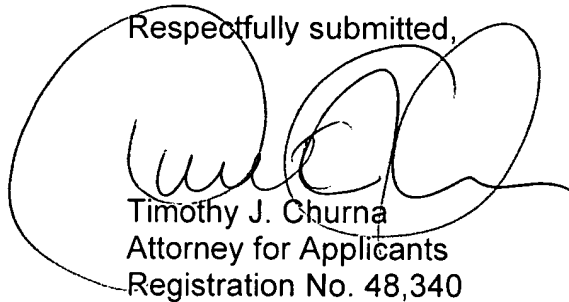
1, Lines 59-67; Column 2, Lines 1-6; and Column 3, Lines 19-21. However, Griffin does not disclose or suggest that a first cage includes at least one more pocket than there are sprags, and that a second cage includes the same number of pockets as there are sprags, as set forth in Applicants' claimed invention. As such, the combination of Fujiwara and Griffin merely results in a one-way clutch in which the first cage and the second cage each include more pockets than there are sprags. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the obviousness rejection of independent claim 1.

Claims 3, 4, 6, and 7 depend from allowable independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner also withdraw the rejection of claims 3, 4, 6, and 7.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-captioned patent application is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that an in-person or telephonic interview with Applicants' representatives would expedite the prosecution of the above-captioned patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of records. Applicants believe that no fees are due as a result of this submission. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicants and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy J. Churna', is written over a large, loopy circular flourish.

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